

LABOR AND LEGION HAVE COMMON AIM, EXECUTIVES SAY

Organizations Cannot Be
Bound by Acts of Individ-
uals, Letters Agree.

PRINCIPLES QUOTED

Correspondence Grew Out of
Gompers's Protest Over
Kansas Events.

GALBRAITH SENDS REPLY

Sees Difficulty in Impressing
Body's Aspirations on
Small Groups.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 1.—Correspondence between F. W. Galbraith, Jr., national commander of the American Legion, and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has been made public at the national headquarters of the legion. The letters, which continue an exchange begun before Mr. Galbraith took office, reveal the two executives in accord on the principle that an organization, as such, can scarcely be held responsible for acts of individual members which may not agree with either the latter or the spirit of the body's official pronouncements. Each of the correspondents expressed the hope that they might meet and talk over the problems confronting them.

The first letter was written by Mr. Galbraith November 2 in response to one which Mr. Gompers had sent to Franklin D'Olier, former commander of the legion, last August. The labor leader had called attention to reports that "members of the American Legion were improperly participating in certain political activities in the State of Kansas," and Mr. Galbraith wrote that a reply had been delayed because he needed time to familiarize himself with the situation. He added:

"As a result of an investigation the officials of the American Legion in Kansas report that as such in the incidents reported to you. If any members of the American Legion did take part in any of these reported incidents it was entirely upon their own responsibility, without sanction from any official of the American Legion and in violation of our expressed policy.

Legion's Principles.
"As you know, the American Legion is an association of former soldiers, sailors and marines associated for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 per cent. Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to incite a sense of individual obligation to the community, State and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness. The position of the American Legion in political controversies is neutral and non-partisan. We are on record in favor of policies and are not interested in political differences as they arise in the different sections of the country.

"In a great national organization it is necessary that the individual members retain to themselves the greatest freedom in matters of political affiliation, religion, etc., and that they decide upon their own conduct along these lines strictly in accordance with their own conscience.

Policy Reiterated.
"Two successive conventions of the American Legion have unqualifiedly upheld and reiterated this policy. The people of the United States have the right to decide for themselves any political question which may come before them. The American Legion does not believe in the abridgement of this right in any respect. The American Legion believes in law and order. It is steadfastly opposed to the use of force or violence in furtherance of any doctrine and will oppose such methods through the lawful constituted authorities wherever they may appear.

"No one knows more truly than do you that the aims and attitude of a great national association may often be judged by the responsible conduct or statements of individual members of the association or by small groups of members and that it sometimes unfortunately occurs that the newspaper reports of such incidents or statements are not strictly accurate reports of the facts and circumstances as they occurred. Incidents of this nature cannot commit a national organization to policies or positions in conflict with the policies and positions taken by such an association at its conventions or as set forth in its constitution."

Reply of Gompers.
Replying a week later Mr. Gompers wrote: "It is indeed gratifying to know that you have taken the same stand as your predecessor, Mr. Franklin D'Olier, and are just as much interested as was he in conserving the good name of the American Legion. I would ask you if there is anything in the following declaration by the A. F. of L. convention in 1910 to which the American Legion can object:

bers of the American Legion, outside of a few, are like the members of other organizations; they don't know the real purpose for which an organization is formed. New organizations especially find it difficult to restrain their members from doing those things which are a menace not only to them but to all the people.

"I have been helpful in a way in acquainting the members of trade unions with the real aims and objects of the American Legion. On several occasions resolutions that have been presented in meetings of labor organizations have been laid on the table or defeated because of the information they have received through me in relation to the work of the American Legion. Many of your members do not understand the trade union movement and have been misled as to the work of the American Federation of Labor, and it is my belief that if they knew the real object of the American Federation of Labor as outlined at the 1910 convention it would also be an influence causing individuals to cease interfering in any way with the trade unions.

A Common Problem.

The reply of Mr. Galbraith, dated November 27, said that it was "with a real sense of pride in the fundamental soundness of our American institutions and as renewed proof thereof that I read again the American Federation of Labor's declaration of 1910."

"Is there anything in that declaration to which the American Legion can object? you ask. Certainly not. The legion subscribes to every word of it. Compare it to the preamble of the constitution of our organization. But, as you and I both must be aware, it is one thing for a great organization like the American Legion or the American Federation of Labor to aspire to lofty aims and in conventions assembled give birth to excellent pronouncements; and it is another thing for such organizations to go out and in the daily acts and deliberations of its individual members and small groups always adhere to such declarations."

"I shall look forward with pleasure to the time when we may meet and personally discuss some of the phases of our common problems."

MISSING LAW BASIS OF REORGANIZATION

Lost in White House, but It Will Revolutionize Systems.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau,
Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.

For the first time within the memory of White House attaches a bill has been permitted to become a law without the President's signature because it was lost in the Executive Office. What is more, it is a measure vitally affecting the administrative branches of the Government. It is the Smoot-Reavis resolution providing for a reorganization of the Government departments.

The last seen of the bill was when it was placed on the President's desk soon after its receipt from the Senate December 17. Secretary Tumulty evidently had made a separate note of it, for as time drew near for action within the day, the bill was found, permitted by the Constitution, the President called for the resolution. A hurried but thorough search failed to disclose the missing bill, nor has it been found since. Because of this unusual mix-up the utter failure to find any trace of the document and the fact that it is now a law on account of the lapse of time, it will be necessary for the President to call on the Secretary of the Senate to have the resolution reengrossed and reentered so that it may be sent to the State Department to be written upon the statute books and the original placed in the Government archives.

Discovery of the loss of the Smoot-Reavis resolution followed closely the unusual happenings in connection with the signing of the mine assessment bill. That bill was signed just in time to save many Western miners from losing their claims.

The Smoot-Reavis resolution contemplates a complete reorganization of the administrative branch of the Government and proposes elimination of countless duplications of work and authority now admittedly existing in the loosely organized Federal structure which has not been systematized, according to authorities, since the days of Alexander Hamilton. Proponents of the measure say it will result in a great increase of efficiency and do away with many useless bureaus and employees.

Urged in behalf of the bill is the statement credited to former Senator Aldrich (R. I.) many years ago, when he said if he were only permitted to organize the Federal Government and administer it on a businesslike basis he could save the taxpayers \$1,000,000 a day. Since that time the expenses of government have increased many fold.

The Joint Congress committee authorized in the resolution will organize at once and start the investigations within the departments as soon as possible. It is taken for granted that Senator Smoot will be chairman of the committee and Speaker Gillett has indicated that from the House side Representatives Reavis (Okla.), Temple (Pa.), Republicans, and Moore (Va.), Democrat, will be chosen for the reorganization work.

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